GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:110
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
Female Literacy Rate
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase female literacy rate in the country including funds allocated/utilized for the purpose during the last three years, State/UT-wise and year-wise;

(b) the details of achievements of the various Government schemes meant for girl child, like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, PRAGATI etc. during the last three years, State/UT and year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to spread awareness and sensitize people regarding female education specially in rural areas in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) In order to improve the female literacy rate in the country, "Saakshar Bharat", a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented in rural areas of 410 districts in 26 States and one UT that had adult female literacy rate of 50 per cent and below as per Census 2001, including left wing extremism affected districts, irrespective of their literacy rates, with special focus on women and other disadvantaged groups. In addition, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is also being implemented in conjunction with the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 for universalisation of elementary education for all children in the 6-14 age group. A statement indicating State/UT-wise grants approved and central share released under Saakshar Bharat and SSA during the last three years are at Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

(b) & (c) The Government is implementing Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme to address the issue of decline in Child Sex Ratio (CSR) through a national campaign and focussed multi sectoral action in 100 selected districts low in CSR, covering all States and UTs. Considering the criticality of the issue and the success of the scheme, BBBP scheme is expanded to additional 61 districts in 11 States/UTs. An exhaustive media campaign has been launched including Radio and TV campaign, Cinema Halls, BBBP messages through LPG Bills, community engagement through Song & Drama Division and online digital media.

Under Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) several provisions viz. construction of separate toilets for girls, construction of residential quarters for teachers, curriculum reforms, conducting self defence training for the girls, special programme for empowerment of girls, stipend for girls with disabilities, vocationalisation of secondary education, girls hostel, etc. have been made for improving girls education and effectively addressing female literacy rate.

Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) several interventions viz. opening of schools in the neighbourhood to make access easier for girls, appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, separate toilets for girls, teachers' sensitization programme to promote girls participation, gender sensitive teaching learning materials including textbooks have been introduced. In addition, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas have been opened in Educationally Backward Blocks where the female rural literacy is below the national average to provide for residential upper primary schools for girls.

Under the Swachh Vidyalaya Initiative, the Government achieved the ambitious target of building 4,17,796 toilets in 2,61,400 government schools in one year alone by 15th August, 2015. With this, about 13.58 crore children in 11.08 lakh government schools have access to gender segregated toilets. This has a positive impact on retention of girls in schools, which has been recognized at the time of the Prime Minister's Award of Excellence, 2016.

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